

## Assess the health and well-being of women and their babies during pregnancy

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### Overview

This standard is about working in partnership with women and key people they want to involve in their care, to assess the health and well-being of the woman and her baby/ies during pregnancy. A caring and compassionate approach should be adopted in line with current healthcare guidance. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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### Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish an open and supportive relationship with the woman and key people involved in her care as agreed with her
2. identify and respect the privacy, confidentiality and wishes of those involved
3. maintain confidentiality and share information in accordance with your organisation's information governance requirements
4. support the woman and key people to communicate their views and preferences, and encourage them to seek clarification of any procedures, information, and advice relevant to them
5. explain the assessment process to the woman and key people and obtain the necessary agreement and consent
6. explain the purpose, benefits, risks and potential outcomes of any screening tests and respect the rights of the woman to accept or decline a test
7. establish any specific requirements to achieve an effective assessment
8. determine whether the services of a chaperone are required
9. use discretion, sensitivity and respect throughout the assessment
10. encourage the woman and key people to express their own needs and to discuss them with you
11. select assessment methods that are safe for the woman and her baby/ies, appropriate to their needs, and take account of all available information and other relevant factors
12. apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
13. undertake the assessment and interpret the assessment results correctly
14. encourage key people to give appropriate support to the woman during the assessment
15. evaluate all information from the assessment to identify potential outcomes
16. recognise when further specialist assessment or support is required, and take the necessary action
17. produce records and reports that are clear, comprehensive, and accurate, and maintain the security and confidentiality of information.

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### Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. legal, organisational and policy requirements relevant to your role and the activities being carried out
2. the nature, extent and boundaries of your work role and its relationship to others in the organisation
3. the roles of other health and social care practitioners and how they relate between and across agencies
4. the legal requirements and good practice guidelines on consent, and consent for children, young people and vulnerable adults
5. how to work in partnership with women to enable them to make informed choices in the context of their own lives
6. how to recognise when women are not able to exercise their rights to make informed choices and the actions to take in response to this
7. how to recognise and respond to the signs of injury, abuse or neglect and your responsibility in relation to raising concerns with the appropriate person or agency
8. local systems, procedures and protocols for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults
9. the principle of information governance and the implications for your practice
10. the importance of focusing on the woman as an individual and the focus of care
11. the importance of applying appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
12. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
13. how to communicate effectively with individuals to meet the needs of a socio-economic, culturally diverse population
14. how to respect the diversity and values of individuals
15. the best available evidence based practice and its role in improving services
16. the principles of clinical risk management and how to apply these to your work
17. the normal parameters of fetal development, growth and well-being and how to recognise deviations from these
18. the physiological, psychological and emotional changes in women that occur during pregnancy and how to recognise deviations from these
19. the health conditions that may affect women during pregnancy in your area of practice
20. pre-existing conditions that impact on pregnancy and any additional care required to address these, including those associated with recurrent

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- miscarriage, infertility and infertility treatments
21. the interdependent relationship of the health and well-being of the mother and her baby/ies
  22. the importance of early identification of any problems during pregnancy
  23. the drugs and interventions which are used to manage conditions and symptoms during pregnancy and the effects of these on the overall health and well-being of women and their babies
  24. how to seek advice on conditions and drugs
  25. the positive and negative impact of social relationships and environment on the health and well-being of pregnant women and their babies
  26. how the needs of pregnant women may affect others
  27. the importance of offering, and having available, the services of a chaperone
  28. the importance of identifying and gathering relevant information to inform the assessment
  29. where this information is held and how to access this, including information held by other practitioners and agencies
  30. the environment in which assessment takes place and how to address any limitations that may impact on the assessment
  31. the equipment, materials and personal protective measures which will be necessary for the assessment
  32. how to record your initial observations and use these to inform the assessment process
  33. how to ascertain the levels of understanding that the woman and the key people have of the assessment process and related interventions
  34. the relevant guidance for antenatal assessment and care
  35. the purpose, benefits, risks and potential outcomes of antenatal screening tests
  36. the potential impact of antenatal assessments on the woman and her baby/ies and key people
  37. the way health and social conditions interact to affect pregnant women and the implications of this for the assessment process and outcomes
  38. how to encourage and support the woman and key people to express their own needs and the reasons for doing this
  39. the assessment methods which are available for assessing and monitoring the health and well-being of pregnant women and their babies and evidence of their effectiveness in your area of practice
  40. how to respect privacy and dignity during assessment
  41. the importance of being aware of your own competence and scope of practice and when to refer to others for specialist assessment or support

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42. how to keep records in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

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### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet health and wellbeing needs

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